AUSTIN360

MOONTOWER FESTIVAL READY TO SHINE

Our top picks for the funny folks to see during the annual comedy fest

SPORTS | C1

WILL A&M CHANGES REIGNITE UT RIVALRY?

Kirk Bohls checks up on when Longhorns, Aggies might meet again in football

Austin American-Statesman

Friday, April 19, 2019 | statesman.com | @statesman | Facebook.com/statesman | $2

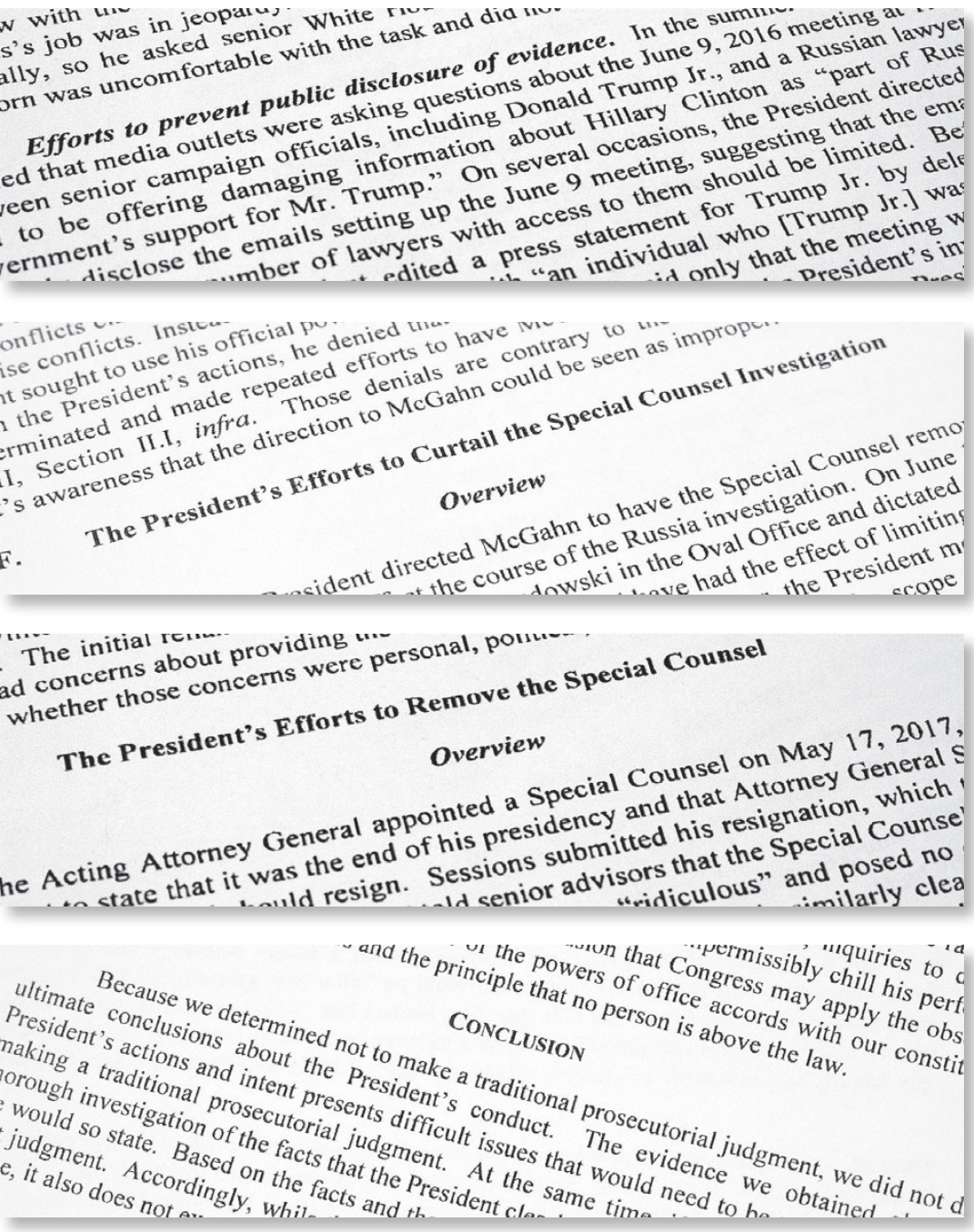
THE MUELLER REPORT

TRUMP ATTEMPTED TO THWART PROBE

Report: Trump tried to seize control of Russia investigation, oust Mueller, but aides often refused to carry out orders

Mueller's inquiry doesn't find that the 'Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government.'

Trump, Republicans see vindication, but Democrats blast AG Barr's news conference, will seek testimony from Mueller


Efforts to prevent public disclosure of evidence.
The President's Efforts to Curtail the Special Counsel Investigation
Overview
The President's Efforts to Remove the Special Counsel
Overview
CONCLUSION

Special counsel Robert Mueller's redacted report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election was released Thursday in Washington. [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Report provides layers summary could not

By Nancy Benac, Chad Day, Eric Tucker and Michael Balsamo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Public at last, special counsel Robert Mueller's report revealed to a waiting nation Thursday that President Donald Trump tried to seize control of the Russia probe and force Mueller's removal to stop him from investigating potential obstruction of justice by the president. Trump was largely thwarted by those around him.

Mueller laid out multiple episodes in which Trump directed others to influence or curtail the Russia investigation after the special counsel's appointment in May 2017. Those efforts "were mostly unsuccessful, but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests," Mueller wrote.

After nearly two years, the two-volume, 448-page redacted report made for riveting reading.

In one particularly dramatic moment, Mueller reported that Trump was so agitated at the special counsel's appointment on May 17, 2017, that he slumped back in his chair and declared: "Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my presidency. I'm f----d."

With that, Trump set out to save himself.

See PROBE, A12

Key takeaways from Robert Mueller's Russia report

TRUMP TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE RUSSIA PROBE: Mueller details several occasions. Some occurred in public. Others behind closed doors. Trump ordered his White House counsel to try to have Mueller removed. He directed his former campaign manager to deliver a message to then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to make a public statement calling the investigation "very unfair." He also wanted Sessions to announce that Trump had done "nothing wrong" and to say that the investigation's scope had been limited. But people around Trump either refused or quietly allowed the matters to drop.

NO COLLUSION, BUT NO EXONERATION: Barr was generally right weeks ago when he released Mueller's key findings. The special counsel did not find a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. He did not recommend charging any Trump associates as agents of the Russian government or with campaign finance violations.

MUELLER FELT HE COULDN'T CHARGE TRUMP—EVEN IN SECRET: The report reveals some of Mueller's reasoning behind why he didn't reach a conclusion on the question of obstruction. He says that he would have exonerated Trump if he could have, but he wasn't able to given the evidence he uncovered. Still, Mueller said that the Justice Department's opinion that a sitting president couldn't be indicted meant he also couldn't recommend Trump be criminally charged, even if he made the recommendation in secret.

More

Read full report online.
Additional coverage inside.
A11-13

Austin buys troubled power plant

Purchase of East Texas biomass plant lessens financial sting of long-term contract, Austin Energy says

By Philip Jankowski
pjankowski@statesman.com

The city of Austin has purchased an East Texas renewable power plant for $460 million as a means to escape from a punitive contract. The deal reached late Wednesday wiped out some of the financial hit of the remainder of a 20-year, $2.3 billion contract set to run through 2032, the head of Austin Energy said.

Austin Energy General Manager Jackie Sargent told the American-Statesman that the utility expects to save $275 million by buying the Nacogdoches Generating Facility, a wood chip-fueled biomass power plant that the city has used sparingly because the facility was often too expensive to run. The city has been the plant's only customer since 2012.

The Statesman first reported April 5 the possibility of the city purchasing the plant. At the time, city officials were bound by a strict confidentiality agreement that prevented them from acknowledging a possible sale. In actuality, though, the Austin City Council had already voted during a closed session on March 28 to buy the facility.

Southern Company, the plant's owner, accepted the offer this week, notifying Austin Energy at 10:40 p.m. Wednesday.

See PLANT, A15

BUSINESS | B6

ST. EDWARD'S PLANNING A RESTAURANT

University is looking to lease the former site of El Gallo to another eatery

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TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sunny; nice	*Sunny*	*Partly sunny*
75° / 51°	*83° / 61°*	*85° / 65°*

Puccini's
La bohème

Saturday, April 27 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 5 2:30 p.m.

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